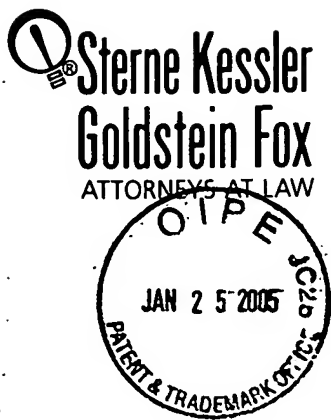


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LOFC



Robert Greene Sterne  
Edward J. Kessler  
Jorge A. Goldstein  
David K.S. Cornwell  
Robert W. Esmond  
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Michele A. Cimbalà  
Michael B. Ray  
Robert E. Sokohl  
Eric K. Steffe  
Michael O. Lee  
Steven R. Ludwig  
John M. Covert  
Linda E. Alcorn  
Robert C. Millonig  
Lawrence B. Bugalsky  
Donald J. Featherstone  
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim  
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.  
Patrick E. Garrett  
Jeffrey I. Helvey  
Heidi L. Kraus  
Albert L. Ferro  
Donald R. Banowitz  
Peter A. Jackman  
Teresa U. Medler  
Jeffrey S. Weaver  
Kendrick P. Patterson  
Vincent L. Capuano  
Eldora Ellison Floyd  
Thomas C. Fiala  
Brian J. Del Buono  
Virgil Lee Beason  
Theodore A. Wood  
Elizabeth J. Haanes

Joseph S. Ostroff  
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Michael D. Specht  
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Jon E. Wright  
LuAnne M. DeSantis  
Ann E. Summerfield  
Aric W. Ledford  
Helene C. Carlson  
Timothy A. Doyle  
Gaby L. Longworth  
Lori A. Gordon

Nicole D. Dreray  
Ted J. Ebersole  
Jyoti C. Iyer  
Laura A. Vogel  
Michael J. Mancuso  
  
Registered Patent Agents  
Karen R. Markowicz  
Nancy J. Leith  
Matthew J. Dowd  
Aaron L. Schwartz  
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach  
Bryan L. Skelton  
Robert A. Schwartzman  
Teresa A. Colella  
Jeffrey S. Lundgren  
Victoria S. Rutherford  
Michelle K. Holoubek

Robert H. DeSels  
Simon J. Elliott  
Julie A. Heider  
Mita Mulherjee  
Scott M. Woodhouse  
Michael G. Penn  
Christopher J. Walsh  
  
Of Counsel  
Kenneth C. Bass III  
Evan R. Smith  
Marvin C. Guthrie  
  
\*Admitted only in Maryland  
\*Admitted only in Virginia  
\*Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

January 25, 2005

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:  
(202) 772-8629  
INTERNET ADDRESS:  
DONF@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Certificate of Correction Branch

Re: U.S. Issued Patent  
Patent No. 6,828,654 B2; Issued: December 7, 2004  
For: Thick Oxide P-Gate NMOS Capacitor for Use in a Phase-Locked  
Loop Circuit and Method of Making Same  
Inventors: Tam et al.  
Our Ref: 1875.1350000

Sir:

Certificate  
FEB 01 2005  
of Correction

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Request for Certificate of Correction Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.322;
2. Copy of Amendment and Reply as filed on June 30, 2004;
3. Certificate of Correction Form (PTO/SB/44); and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Donald J. Featherstone  
Attorney for Patentees  
Registration No. 33,876

DJF/LMY/lam  
Enclosures

352242.1

FEB 01 2005



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent of:

Tam *et al.*

Patent. No.: 6,828,654 B2

Issued: December 7, 2004

For: **Thick Oxide P-Gate NMOS  
Capacitor for Use in a Phase-  
Locked Loop Circuit and Method  
of Making Same**

Confirmation No.: 7771

Art Unit: 2825

Examiner: Malsawma, Lalrinfamkim H.

Atty. Docket: 1875.1350000

**Request for Certificate of Correction  
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.322**

*Attn: Certificate of Correction Branch*

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is hereby requested that a Certificate of Correction under 37 C.F.R. § 1.322 be issued for the above-captioned United States Patent. This Certificate of Correction is being requested due to mistakes which appear in the printed patent. These mistakes were made by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Specifically, the printed patent contains the following errors for which a Certificate of Correction is respectfully requested:

In claim 1, column 6, line 55, "the said gate electrode and coupled to a second" should appear as --said gate electrode and coupled to a second--. Support for this correction can be found in the amendment to claim 6, as filed in the Amendment and Reply of June 30, 2004.

FEB 01 2005

In claim 2, column 6, line 61, "The circuit of claim 1, wherein said P+ gate-to-substrate" should appear as --The circuit of claim 1, wherein the gate-to-substrate--. Support for this correction can be found in the amendment to claim 7, as filed in the Amendment and Reply of June 30, 2004.

In claim 6, column 7, line 5, "circuit additionally includes oscillator, a reference frequency" should appear as --circuit additionally includes an oscillator, a reference frequency--. Support for this correction can be found in the amendment to claim 11, as filed in the Amendment and Reply of June 30, 2004.

For convenience, a photocopy of the Amendment and Reply filed on June 30, 2004, is included herewith.

### ***Remarks***

The above-noted corrections do not involve such changes in the patent as would constitute new matter or would require reexamination.

A completed Form PTO/SB/44 accompanies this request, with the above-noted corrections printed thereon. Accordingly, a Certificate of Correction is believed proper and issuance thereof is respectfully requested.

FEB 01 2005

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Donald J. Featherstone  
Attorney for Patentees  
Registration No. 33,876

Date: 1/25/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

352219.1

FEB 01 2005



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tam *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/026,470

Filed: December 27, 2001

For: **A Thick Oxide P-Gate NMOS  
Capacitor for Use in a Phase-  
Locked Loop Circuit and Method  
of Making Same**

Confirmation No.: 7771

Art Unit: 2825

Examiner: Malsawma, L. H.

Atty. Docket: 1875.1350000

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated March 1, 2004, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 01292004), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
  - in ascending order;
  - with status identifiers; and
  - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

COPY AS FILED

Tam *et al.*  
Appl. No. 10/026,470

However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

***Amendments to the Specification***

Applicants submit no amendments to the specification.

*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A phase locked loop circuit with dual gate dielectric thicknesses, comprising:

- an oscillator to output a reference clock signal;
- a reference frequency divider to receive and divide the reference clock signal, and output a reference signal;
- a comparison frequency divider to receive a control voltage signal and output a comparison signal;
- a phase comparator to receive the reference signal and the comparison signal, wherein said phase comparator compares the reference signal with the comparison signal and outputs a frequency difference signal and a phase difference signal;
- a charge pump to receive the frequency difference and the phase difference signals and output a charge pump signal;
- a low-pass filter to receive the charge pump signal and output a low pass filter signal;
- and
- a voltage controlled oscillator to receive the low pass filter signal and output the control voltage signal,



wherein said oscillator, said reference frequency divider, said comparison frequency divider, said phase comparator, said charge pump, and said voltage controlled oscillator comprise devices having thin gate oxide layers;

wherein said low-pass filter comprises a capacitor formed by

- an N-type substrate;
- a P-type region within said N-type substrate;
- a thick oxide layer formed over said P-type region;
- a P<sup>+</sup> gate electrode formed over said thick oxide layer and coupled to a first voltage supply line; and
- P<sup>+</sup> pick-up terminals within said P-type region adjacent ~~the~~ said gate electrode and coupled to a second voltage supply line; and

wherein said thick oxide layer of said capacitor reduces leakage current such that a gate-to-substrate voltage of said capacitor is maintained, thereby maintaining a stable control voltage for the phase locked loop circuit.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The circuit of claim 6, wherein [[a]] the gate-to-substrate voltage of said capacitor is maintained at less than zero volts.

Claim 8 (original): The circuit of claim 6, wherein said P<sup>+</sup> gate comprises polysilicon.

Claim 9 (original): The circuit of claim 6, wherein said N-type substrate comprises a deep NWELL.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The circuit of claim 6, wherein said thick oxide layer is between about 20 and 100 Å thick.

Claim 11 (currently amended): In a low-pass filter for a phase locked loop (PLL) circuit with dual gate dielectric thicknesses, wherein the PLL circuit additionally includes an oscillator, a reference frequency divider, a comparison frequency divider, a phase comparator, a charge pump, and a voltage controlled oscillator each comprising devices having thin gate oxide layers, a capacitor comprising:

- an N-type substrate;
- a P-type region within said N-type substrate;
- a thick oxide layer formed over said P-type region;
- a P<sup>+</sup> gate electrode formed over said thick oxide layer and coupled to a first voltage supply line; and

P<sup>+</sup> pick-up terminals within said P-type region adjacent the said gate electrode and coupled to a second voltage supply line,

wherein said thick oxide layer of the capacitor reduces leakage current whereby a gate-to-substrate voltage of the capacitor is maintained at less than zero volts to maintain a stable control voltage for the PLL circuit.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (original): The capacitor of claim 11, wherein said P<sup>+</sup> gate electrode comprises polysilicon.

Claim 14 (original): The capacitor of claim 11, wherein said N-type substrate comprises a deep NWELL.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The capacitor of claim 11, wherein said thick oxide layer is between about 20 and 100 Å thick.

Claim 16-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (new): A phase locked loop circuit with dual gate dielectric thicknesses, comprising:

- an oscillator to output a reference clock signal;

- a reference frequency divider to receive and divide the reference clock signal, and output a reference signal;

- a comparison frequency divider to receive a control voltage signal and output a comparison signal;

- a phase comparator to receive the reference signal and the comparison signal, wherein said phase comparator compares the reference signal with the comparison signal and outputs a frequency difference signal and a phase difference signal;

- a charge pump to receive the frequency difference and the phase difference signals and output a charge pump signal;

a low-pass filter to receive the charge pump signal and output a low pass filter signal;  
and

a voltage controlled oscillator to receive the low pass filter signal and output the control voltage signal,

wherein said oscillator, said reference frequency divider, said comparison frequency divider, said phase comparator, said charge pump, and said voltage controlled oscillator comprise devices having thin gate oxide layers;

wherein said low-pass filter includes a capacitor that comprises at least one device having a thick gate oxide layer; and

wherein said thick gate oxide layer of said capacitor reduces leakage current such that a gate-to-substrate voltage of said capacitor is maintained, thereby maintaining a stable control voltage for the phase locked loop circuit.

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 6-11, 13-15, and 25 are pending in the application, with claims 6, 11, and 25 being the independent claims. Claims 1-5, 12, and 16-24 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claim 25 is sought to be added. Independent claims 6 and 11 are amended for further clarification. Claims 7, 10, and 15 are amended for purposes of clarity in light of the amendment to independent claims 6 and 11. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

The Office Action states on page 2 that claims 1-3, 16-17, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,621,128 B2 to Lee *et al.* (hereinafter, "Lee"). In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1-5, 12, and 16-24, which include the rejected claims, have been cancelled by amendment without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Office Action states on page 3 that claims 4-5, 18-19, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,303,957

B1 to Ohwa (hereinafter, "Ohwa"). As stated above, these claims have been cancelled by amendment. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

The Office Action states on page 4 that claims 6-8 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of "Applicant admitted prior art" and U.S. Pat. No. 4,335,359 to Kriedt *et al.* (hereinafter, "Kriedt"). Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of these claims.

The cited art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest a phase locked loop (PLL) circuit with dual gate dielectric thicknesses in which the PLL components including "*said oscillator, said reference frequency divider, said comparison frequency divider, said phase comparator, said charge pump, and said voltage controlled oscillator comprise devices having thin gate oxide layers,*" while the low-pass filter of the PLL comprises a capacitor which includes a *thick gate oxide layer*, as claimed in amended independent claim 1, for example. (Support for this is found in paragraphs 27 and 29 of the specification, for example.) Independent claim 11 and new independent claim 25 are similarly directed toward a phase locked loop circuit with dual gate dielectric thicknesses. The technical significance of this is that having a thick oxide layer in the capacitor of the low pass filter reduces leakage current that can be severe in the otherwise thin oxide phase locked loop circuit. The reduction in leakage current allows a stable control voltage to be maintained for the phase locked loop circuit. (See paragraph 9 of the specification for a discussion of the problem being solved.) For at least this reason, independent claims 6 and 11 and the claims depending therefrom, as well as new independent claim 25, are believed to

be allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of these claims and that they be withdrawn.

On page 5, the Office Action states that claims 9-10 and 14-15 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of "Applicant admitted prior art" and Kriedt, and further in view of Ohwa. These claims depend directly from either independent claim 6 or 11. Thus, dependent claims 9-10 and 14-15 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reason as discussed above for independent claims 6 and 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of these claims and that they be withdrawn.

### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Tam *et al.*  
Appl. No. 10/026,470

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Donald J. Featherstone  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 33,876

Date: 6/30/04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,828,654 B2  
DATED : December 7, 2004  
INVENTOR(S) : Derek Tam et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Claim 1, column 6, line 55, "the said gate electrode and coupled to a second" should appear as --said gate electrode and coupled to a second--.

Claim 2, column 6, line 61, "The circuit of claim 1, wherein said P+ gate-to-substrate" should appear as --The circuit of claim 1, wherein the gate-to-substrate--.

Claim 6, column 7, line 5, "circuit additionally includes oscillator, a reference frequency" should appear as --circuit additionally includes an oscillator, a reference frequency--.

**MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:**

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.  
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3934

**PATENT NO.**

6,828,654 B2

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**FEB 01 2005**